

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Conference in the Office of Colonel J. J. Morrow, Deputy Director for Estimates, Director of Intelligence, U.S. Air Force (OIN-2) (3 August 1953)

Present, in addition to Colonel Morrow, were Colonel W. C. Baird, Chief, Policy and Plans, Office of Deputy Director for Targets (OIN-3), Lt. Col. Edwin M. Collins (OIN-2) and Mr. Donald Benjamin (OIN-2), who I believe, from time to time represents the Air Force in panel discussions of national estimates.

1. Colonel Morrow pointed out that his organization has no facility of its own for the production of detailed economic intelligence and looks primarily to the Deputy Director for Targets (OIN-3) for support. (Colonel Baird, whom I had interviewed previously, and who was present, represented that area.) The estimates staff also makes extensive use of CIA reports and endeavors to keep a complete file of all ORR publications. They would like to continue to receive all ORR working papers as well as finished reports although I drew special attention to the caveat which we place on working papers to the effect that they are not final, not edited, and are for the use of the addressee alone.

2. In response to an invitation to comment upon the adequacy or suitability of ORR reports, the officers present cited three or four cases where it was thought that we had made some mistakes but there was no general criticism of our reports. There was in fact an expression of genuine appreciation of their usefulness. No questions were raised with regard to the industrial or commodity coverage, but Colonel Collins observed that the Air Force estimates staff, from time to time, needed over-all economic studies of particular areas or countries in the Soviet Bloc and analyses of the degree of self-sufficiency or interdependence that may exist between such areas. In general it was felt that ORR studies did not deal adequately with the area aspects of economic problems.

3. The suggestion that ORR prepare a separate abstract of its research reports met with complete approval. For purposes of discussion I had identified three possible types of reports:

a. A detailed research report with full documentation: assumptions, methods of analysis, maps, tables, conclusions and, in some cases, sources of data.

b. A briefer report giving all essential findings but in shorter compass (say up to 20 pages).

c. An abstract giving the gist of the report in terse language, including only the most important tables and maps together with a brief statement of the contents of the larger report (possibly 2 to 3 pages).

S-E-C-R-E-T

The Air Force officers said that the first type of reports (essentially those which we are now preparing in our RR's, PR's, and working papers) are needed by particular specialists and for reference in dealing with a wide range of problems as they arise. They are not read widely in their entirety. It was the opinion of the officers present that short abstracts (c. above) would be widely read and would serve a highly useful purpose. When more extensive reports are desired, the fullest treatment possible (a. above) usually is required.

4. In response to an inquiry with regard to general surveys of economic developments the group made several interesting observations.

Mr. Benjamin observed that both the current CIA publications (Current Intelligence Digest) and the State Department Monthly (Soviet Affairs) deal primarily with political developments.

The staff of OIN-2 would find very useful a periodic summary of economic developments (quarterly or semi-annual). The Air Force is interested in a world wide coverage, but I pointed out that ORR's responsibility is primarily related to the Soviet Bloc. An annual number of the G-2 Digest includes economics as well as other subjects. Colonel Baird also mentioned the [REDACTED] analyses of Five Year Plans and attainments. It was generally agreed that outstanding economic developments were not now covered adequately in any existing publication. 25X1X7

In response to my question as to whether a quarterly or semi-annual survey of major economic developments might be prepared under theegis of the E.I.C., Colonel Baird remarked that in his opinion a joint effort was undesirable -- each agency would think it necessary to produce something and there would be a tendency to introduce material of a trivial nature. A preferable arrangement would be to prepare such a report in CIA and to send it to other intelligence agencies prior to publication, not for formal coordination but for suggestions as to important additions or corrections.